THE

PETITION

of the

MEMBERS

of the

Houſe of Commons,

Who are accuſed by the ARMY.

Preſented to the Houſe upon Tueſday *the 29. of June.* 1647.

Expreſſing their grounds for deſiring leave to abſent themſelves from the HOUSE, and their earneſt deſire for a ſpeedy day to be given unto

Sir Thomas Fairfax

and the

ARMY

To ſend in what particulars they pretend to have againſt them; that ſo a way may be open for them to Vindicate their *Honour* and *Innocency.*

London, Printed for *Ralph Smith,* and are to be ſold at his ſhop, at the ſign of the *Bible* neer the Royall Exchange, in *Cornhill,* 1647.

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Who are accused by the Army

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the 29 of June 1647

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Vindicate their [illegible]

London, Printed for Ralph Smith and are to be sold [illegible]
of the Bible [illegible] the Royall Exchange [illegible]

TO

The Honorable the Houſe of COMMONS.

The humble Petition of the Members charged by the Army, who have ſubſcribed their names.

Sheweth,

THat they have with all fidelity to the beſt of their underſtandings diſcharged the truſt repoſed in them by their Country in the ſervice of this Houſe: Yet ſuch hath been their unhappineſs, as their perſons are become the object of the power of the Army, and that in ſuch a height as nothing would ſatisfie but their preſent ſuſpention from the Houſe, which if not done by the next day, the Army, or Sir Thomas Fairfax in the name of the Army, declared in

their Remonſtrance of the 23 of June, *That they ſhould be enforced to take ſuch courſes extraordinary as God ſhould enable and direct them unto*, And further preſſed it by a Letter to the Commiſſioners of Parliament, to the ſame effect, dated the 24. which was the day prefixed for our ſuſpention, and al upon pretence of *our intereſt & prevalency in the Houſe to be ſuch, as they could otherwiſe expect but ſmal fruit in their other proceeding*, which how derogatory to the Parliament and how groundleſs a ſuggeſtion to colour the violence intended, we humbly leave to Your wiſdomes to judge, You were pleaſed hereupon to Declare by Vote the 25. of June *That it did not appear that any thing had bin ſaid or done by us within the Houſe touching any matters contained in the Papers ſent from the Army, for which you could in Juſtice ſuſpend us*, And *that by the Laws of the land no Iudgment could be given for our ſuſpention upon thoſe Papers, before par-*

ticulars

ticulars produced and proofs made.
Yet preparations were made (as ſeverall informations brought it unto us) for part of the Army to march towards Weſtminſter, which was looked upon by Your Petitioners as a thing of moſt ſad Conſequence to the Parliament, and their misfortune in it conſidered, that it ſhould happen upon their occaſion, though themſelves moſt innocent of it, And this made them reſolve rather to deſire your leave to abſent themſelves, which they knew had been formerly practiſed by Members in the like manner accuſed, and inconveniencies thereby prevented, And you at this time in your prudence thought fit to grant it; Which as it was done by them out of their meer zeal to the ſafety and quiet of the Houſe, ſo they hope it ſhall not now be turned to their prejudice and diſhonour. For notwithſtanding many dayes have paſt ſince the Army firſt ſent in their generall Charge, and with it a Poſitive deſire of our preſent ſuſpention, which the Houſe could not give way unto (as is before expreſſed) and therefore writ to their Commiſſioners with the Army, declaring their readineſs to receive any particulars, and hear any witneſſes againſt us, and if any were

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to be produced that they expected them by Monday the 28. instant at farthest; in stead thereof we understand, that a Letter is come from Sir Thomas Fairfax, signifying, *That though the particulars and proofs be ready, yet they desire the great businesses may not be interruped by their comming in till a full settlement*; By which means your Petitioners may lye a long time under a generall accusation, nothing instanced in, nothing proved, they not heard, and so neither if innocent cleared, nor condemned if faulty; which, they hope, will not be the pleasure of this Honorable House, as disagreeing from all rules of proceeding in the Way of Justice, where delayes and denyals be alike forbidden.

They therefore humbly pray, the House will be pleased to appoint Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX and the ARMY a short and peremptory day to send in those particulars and proofs, that a speedy proceeding may be had hereupon, when they doubt not to make their innocency appear: And in case they come not in at the time appointed that you will be pleased

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to take ſuch courſe as Your Wiſdoms ſhal think fit, that we may not ſtill be obnoxious to the will and power of others, but that we may have Paſſes to diſpoſe of our ſelves, according to our humble deſires repreſented to the Houſe, when we asked leave to abſent our ſelves.

And we ſhal pray, &c.

Denzel Holles.	*John Maynard.*
Phillip Stapilton.	*Edward Maſſye.*
William Lewis.	*Edward Harley.*
William Waller.	*Walter Longe.*
John Clotworthy.	*Anthony Nichols.*

FINIS.

FINIS.

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